In Memoriam.

MEMORIAL

OF

HON. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON.

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A

MEMORIAL

OF THE

HON. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON,

FROM HIS FAMILY.

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Memorial Sermon

BY THE

REV. CHARLES RAY PALMER.

MEMORIAL SERMON.

"*The memory of the just is blessed.*"—PROVERBS X: 7.

IF we fully accept the Christian doctrine of the immortality of the soul, it modifies our emotions in view of the death of a Christian friend, in two directions. It modifies the emotions which we have in view of his decease in itself considered, as an event affecting him. That event appears no longer the end of life, but a transition from one type of life to another. We no longer imagine him in any sense to have ceased to be,—consciousness, thought, feeling, activity, we imagine in him still, only he has passed from among us, passed beyond our immediate cognizance, as if he had sailed away upon the trackless sea, to a shore whence no tidings could return. He has retained all that we have admired and loved in him, of intellectual power, and of moral affection. Even his familiar form rests in hope, for "if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus, will God bring with Him." How greatly this mitigates the pain of parting with our dead, we, who always have had the comfort of sorrowing not without hope, can never know.

But our sure faith in immortality works in us in another way. It modifies the emotions which we have in view of what *is* ended —the earthly career of which the bound is reached. We estimate differently the experience and the performance which with

that career have ceased. Without the clear apprehension of immortality we might have one kind of feeling about an ended life on earth; with it we have quite another. In the one case we might mourn the incompleteness of a life, an untimeliness in its end, an imperfection in its work, a singular embitterment of its course, its losses and its sorrows; in the other we see precisely the same things in a very different light. Whatever incidents, whatever vicissitudes, whatever limitations we recognize in the retrospect of a life, we regard as chiefly significant not in any relations to the past, but the present; not in respect of what the departed was and is not, but of what he is and cannot cease to be, a divinely designed, moulded, disciplined, proved, and now approbated character, on its unending way to beatification and glory eternal. We know in any such case, because in every case, that according to the methods of Him who leads His children by paths which they have not known,

> "The way he went, and only that,
> Was the best way for him."

Hence to Christian thinking the finished experience of a departed soul is strangely dignified. Its history records the process wherein was accomplished a divine plan, wise in its scope and perfect in its details, and whereby a human soul free, yet never uninfluenced, self-determined, yet ever under government, was enabled to struggle out of earthliness into heavenliness, and become transformed from a servant of sin, into a child of God. Thus Christianity hallows the memory of a saint upon the earth. Christian affection embalms unto a long rememberance all that he was, that he did, that he suffered, not alone for the intrinsic interest discerned in it, not either to lament what it might have been and

never was, but because *so* lived and learned and matured he who is glorified, because *so* went he to the stars.

And a life well lived is worthy of this sort of remembrance, worthy of a reverential commemoration. It is a memorable thing, on its divine side, and on its human side, fruitful of instruction, of encouragement, of impulse, unto all in whose sight it has been wrought. Men with reason praise it, for they can hardly fail themselves to become more praiseworthy through it. Of a truth then, as the Royal Preacher wrote long ago, "the memory of the just is blessed."

Among the tributes to the memory of the celebrated Dr. Chalmers, called forth by his death, was one by the gifted and genial Dr. Brown of Edinburgh, which began in this way:—"When towards the close of some long summer day, we come suddenly, and as we think before his time, upon the broad sun, sinking down in his tranquillity into the unclouded west, we cannot keep our eyes from the great spectacle; and when he is gone the shadow of him haunts our sight; we see everywhere—upon the spotless heaven, upon the distant mountains, upon the fields, and upon the road at our feet—that dim, strange, changeful image; and if our eyes shut to recover themselves we still find in them, like a dying flame, or a gleam in a dark place, the unmistakable phantom of the mighty orb that has set. * * So it is when a great and good and beloved man departs, sets—it may be suddenly and to us who know not the times and seasons—*too soon*. We gaze eagerly at his last hours, and when he is gone, never to rise again on our sight, we see his image wherever we go, and in whatsoever we are engaged; the idea of his life is forever coming into all our thoughts."

My Christian friends, these words have arisen in my memory

and lingered fondly there, and I have felt constrained to repeat them to you, because they vividly describe the effects produced upon my own mind and heart by the departure from among us of our common friend, our honored fellow-citizen, and fellow-worshipper for many years, Mr. Asahel Huntington. Since the bitter moment in which the sad tidings reached me I have seemed to myself hardly capable of another thought than that HE is gone; HE, my beloved father and friend, has left us; HIM I can see no more on earth. Even as I have entered this place nothing has seemed so conspicuous in my audience, as HIS absence; that one dear face is here no more. I believe you do not wonder,—you will not harshly judge me,—you many of you sympathize with me, if, for the time, I indulge the feeling that the world is darker since the light of his countenance is withdrawn. Sacred and precious is the faith that he still lives, although not here. Sacred and precious the hope that far beyond these changeful scenes such a friend may be found again, to know and to love forever more.

With the views already expressed of the interest of all Christian living in this world, when the record of it is closed, and under the influence of the still fresh sense of loss, which I incline to think we all more or less share, I have felt that it would be agreeable and profitable to me, and it could not be other than agreeable and profitable to any of us, to let this hour be devoted to the memory of the just man we mourn. It has seemed to me that the best use which I could make of the opportunity of this hour would be briefly to commemorate, as I could, his life and character. And this is what I propose to do. Recalling the familiar outline of his career, and the kind of public services to which he has been called, I shall be led thereby to express some

appreciation of the abilities, the virtues, and the graces therein displayed.

Mr. Huntington was a descendant, in the sixth generation, from a Puritan immigrant from England, who died on his passage to this country, in 1633, leaving a widow and five children. Three of these children acquired homes in Connecticut, and with them originated a very widely extended family. Christopher the fourth child of the immigrant, was one of the patentees of the town of Norwich, and has a large posterity in that locality. A grandson of his, also Christopher, settled in what is now the village of Franklin, adjoining Norwich, and upon the homestead which he purchased, his descendants live to-day. The father of our friend, also named Asahel, was born in this Franklin home, March 17, 1761. He was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1786, and three years later was ordained Pastor of the church in Topsfield, where he labored until his death in April, 1813, at the age of fifty-two years. In an address delivered by Hon. Nehemiah Cleveland, at the Topsfield Bi-centennial celebration, testimony is given to the most useful and acceptable ministry, the good sense, the unfailing discretion, the benevolence, and the blameless life of this excellent man, and to the affectionate veneration on the part of parishioners and pupils, which he commanded. His wife, the mother of our friend, was born Alethea Lord, the daughter of Dr. Elisha Lord of Abington, Conn., a physician of some note, and the son of an eminent Divine. She is described as a lady of remarkable dignity and gentleness, and a very prepossessing appearance; as of exceeding kindliness and disinterested devotion to others; and of beautiful piety. She survived her husband, and lived to be most fondly cherished by her sons, to the advanced age of eighty-four years. She died Aug. 31, 1850. The

children of these parents were six, of whom our friend was the fourth — the second son. His older brother was the late Lieut. Gov. Elisha Huntington, M. D., who died some four years since, widely known and honored, and greatly lamented. The third son, Hezekiah, became a resident of Vermont, and died in 1828. The other children were daughters, and died in infancy or youth. Asahel was born July 23, 1798. His early years were spent at home, until he went to the Academy at Bradford, and afterwards to fit for College, to Phillips Academy, Andover. Here his instructor was the venerable John Adams, LL. D., for whom he retained a profound respect. It was during these school days, and in his fifteenth year, that the sudden death of his revered father caused his first and long remembered sorrow. In the fall of 1815 he entered Yale College, and pursued his course in that institution with great credit. President Woolsey, who was one class behind him, testifies to me that the younger classes considered our friend as decidedly the leading man of his class, although in the ranking at graduation he stood second. President Woolsey testifies further of his own personal interest in him at that time, and his warm regard for him ever since. He was the recognized leader of the class in the arena presented by the Literary Society of his choice, and received its highest honors, being chosen President at the beginning of his Senior year.

Soon after leaving College, in the fall of 1819, he commenced the study of law in the office of John Scott, Esq., at Newburyport. He resided in the family of Hon. Asa D. Wildes, and supplied the latter's place for a year, as Teacher in the High School. It is remembered of him that he attracted attention at that time, as a man of unusual promise, and in connection with a local Debating Society, as a ready and fluent speaker. The interrup-

tion of his legal studies by teaching, of course protracted the period of them. It was not until after four and a half years that he was ready to present himself for examination. In the mean time, early in 1823, he removed to Salem, and became a student in the office of Judge Cummins, and a fellow-student with Mr. Rufus Choate. His admission to the Bar took place in the following year, in March, 1824, and at once he began to practice in the courts. It was at a period when a number of gifted and afterwards noted men were his competitors, such as Mr. Choate, Mr. Rantoul, Mr. Cushing, and others, but he was not long in acquiring considerable success and reputation. In 1830 he was appointed County Attorney. He first appeared as such in the September term of that year. Two years later, for this office was substituted that of District Attorney, the district embracing Essex and Middlesex counties. To this new office Mr. Huntington was appointed, and held it until 1845, when he resigned. In 1847, Middlesex county was detached from the district, and then he was re-appointed. In April, 1851, he was appointed, by the Supreme Judicial Court, Clerk of the Courts in Essex county, and with his acceptance of this appointment, his practice of law closed. When this office was made an elective one he was chosen to it by the people, and having been twice reëlected, held it until his death.

Mr. Huntington was repeatedly called by his fellow citizens to serve them in public office. As early as 1827, he was elected to the Legislature of the Commonwealth, and would have been returned in the year following but for his opposition during his term of office, to the incorporation of the Salem Theatre. It has been publicly stated that he was again and again called to this kind of public service, but I can find no evidence of it, and

incline to think his professional engagements alone would render the statement unlikely to be true.

In 1853 he took a prominent part in the Constitutional Convention. In that year, also, he was Mayor of the City. From 1827 to 1829 he was a member of the School Committee, and its Clerk. From 1830 to 1832 he was again a member; still again from 1840 to 1842; also in 1846 and 1847, and in 1857 and 1858—making thirteen years of service in all. And he never ceased to be deeply interested in Public Education.

He was also interested in institutions of learning, especially in those in which he had been a student. He was a liberal benefactor to Phillips Academy, when a call was made upon its Alumni, to replace the edifice accidentally consumed by fire, in 1865. He was also interested in a class benefaction to Yale College, which originated in a class meeting, of which he was Chairman, in 1859. For twenty-four years previous to his death he was a Trustee of Dummer Academy, and one whose varied and indefatigable services were esteemed invaluable by his associates. He was exceedingly well qualified for trusts of this kind, and I have reason to believe he would have been called to other and higher positions, but that his non-membership of any Christian church, presented a technical objection.

It was only natural, from his sympathies with the cause of learning, that he was a friend and supporter of the Essex Institute in this city, and from May, 1861, to May, 1865, he was honored with its Presidency. He was heartily interested in the welfare of this city, and ever ready to coöperate in what seemed to promise to enhance its prosperity. That he was for years a Director, and finally President of our largest Manufacturing Company, and a Director in the Holyoke Insurance Company, show

how his counsels in business affairs were estimated. Of our local charities he was an interested patron, and of the Dispensary Association he was the President. He has long been well known in connection with the cause of moral reform. He was an early advocate of the Temperance Reform, and an earnest advocate of legislation in aid of it. He contributed largely to the progress of the cause, by speeches, lectures, and articles in the papers. He was a stanch friend, and for many years an officer of the Massachusetts Temperance Alliance. He was an Honorary Member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and an annual contributor to its funds. Other enterprises of Christian benevolence also found in him a constant supporter.

This is a meagre outline of his public career. It cannot adequately indicate the measure of his public usefulness.

In passing from the record of what Mr. Huntington did in his life, to a consideration of what he was, we enter upon an undertaking which, however pleasant it may be deemed, will be found exceedingly difficult satisfactorily to accomplish. To analyze the character by which he so commanded our admiration and esteem, I confess would seem to me a hopeless task. In the case of some other characters it would seem easy to say, the decisive, formative element or principle, was this, or that. But any statement of this kind with respect to our friend's character, it strikes me, would certainly go wide of the truth. There was an individuality about it,—a rotundity, a symmetry, a compactness, a homogeneity about the substance of it, which rendered it impossible for one to tell how it was made up; you can only describe how it appeared, as from time to time you saw it.

In endeavoring to characterize him, by any general remark, I am reminded of what Carlyle once said of Sir Walter Scott. It

is in substance this, that Scott, if no great man, was something much pleasanter to be, a robust, thoroughly healthy, and withal very prosperous man; an eminently well conditioned man, healthy in body, healthy in soul—we will say one of the *healthiest* of men. I think that remark might be made of our friend with peculiar truth. There was certainly as little that was morbid about him as about any man that I ever knew. His vigorous and healthful look seemed the exact counterpart of the stalwart, well-poised, cheerful, pure inner man. His very size seemed appropriately to indicate the largeness of his nature, the fulness of his heart.

Very common infirmities of character were noticeably absent in him. One could see that he had maintained his own self-respect entirely, yet no man ever talked less of himself. I am surprised when I remember how little, in an intimacy of ten years, I have learned from him about his own history. It was apparent that he was very accessible, all kinds of men found him so; yet no man was ever freer from the pretence of good will, from the complaisance that masks inward dislike with outward demonstrations of cordiality. He had an abiding sense of the degree of consideration due to himself, and was quick to discern if it was refused or neglected; yet no man ever troubled his friends less, by an exacting spirit, or harbored less pique, or jealousy, or resentment. To quarrel with him was well nigh impossible. In the transaction of business he expected prompt payment of demands and full—he might seem even to look sharply for this; yet he was still more ready to meet all demands upon him exactly, and was generous in giving to an extreme. He habitually expressed his opinions decidedly, and tenaciously; yet of all men he was one of the most tolerant of contradiction, and

retained the fullest cordiality toward the most decided opponent. His sympathies and antipathies were very positive; yet of narrowness and bigotry he was incapable. Was there not in all these particulars an equitableness of self-carriage, a just balance of self against all else, and in all relations, as admirable as rare, and as truly indicating mental and moral health, as his erectness and strength revealed the absence of physical defect?

It was in consonance with this characteristic of our friend that he was certainly a man of remarkable integrity. I believe him to have been, in the judgment of all who knew him, one of the most honest, straightforward, and thoroughly trustworthy men who have ever lived; indeed entirely beyond suspicion in this direction. I doubt if there be a man in the county who would be sooner, or further trusted. It might easily have happened any day, as it did happen again and again, that two persons hostile to each other, and having delicate relations with each other, and opposing interests, severally confide in him to the fullest extent. It was felt to be certain that neither would have reason to complain, and neither feared giving the other the slightest advantage. There was so general an assurance that he was just and true to the last degree, that the confidence of men in him was well nigh absolutely complete. And it was with reason. The path which rectitude and honor plainly prescribed to him he never would hesitate to take, and what that path was, in any case, he showed an unusual acuteness and quickness in discerning.

Some qualities which he exhibited shone with a greater lustre, that they were distinctly traceable to this integrity of purpose. He was constitutionally a timid man. It is the more to his credit that he proved himself capable of great moral courage, and of fearlessness in professional and public duty. He was constitu-

tionally indisposed to contention, shrinking from any antagonism which would expose him to censure. It is the more to his credit that he proved himself capable, in obviously grave emergencies, of braving censure and even obloquy, and even fiercely contending for what he deemed right. He was constitutionally a man of more than usual inertia. It is the more to his credit that he proved himself capable when roused, of prodigious energy, great executive ability, and persevering activity. His sense of duty, when directly appealed to, could be fully relied upon. It would know no questions beyond "what is to be done?" I have heard it questioned whether these constitutional traits of which I have spoken did not hold him back from the greatest eminence in life within his reach. It must certainly be admitted that they did not prevent his being recognized living, and dead, as one of the best of good men.

His professional career will be more correctly appreciated and commemorated elsewhere. Yet a few words may be ventured here, I trust, as necessary to the completeness of what is purposed in this discourse.

In estimating him as a lawyer, it must be borne in mind to what department of practice he was led to confine himself. Hardly had he been half a dozen years at the Bar before he was made a prosecuting officer, and he was this for nearly twenty years, and the bulk of his strength was bestowed in this direction. Of course different kinds of practice require and develope different types of power, and result in different kinds of attainments. Remembering his career, it is not singular that he was not a learned counsellor, any more than that he was not a distinguished conveyancer. He belonged to another class of lawyers from the habits of his life. He was not eminent as an

acute reasoner, for the use of incisive or constructive logic, for this would not naturally be acquired in his practice. But as a prosecuting officer he was deservedly distinguished; in that, his special vocation, he was great. It was said of Mr. Burke that "as an accuser he was terrific;" that "he assaulted his victim with a sledge-hammer, and repeated his blows so often that few could recognize the carcase which he had taken in hand to mangle." I have heard men speak very similarly of Mr. Huntington. I have heard them use that very word *terrific*. His onslaughts were tremendous and destructive. He used all the weapons of attack with a singular energy. Especially if there was a weak point in the defence, susceptible of ridicule, or sarcasm, he would avail himself of the advantage infallibly, and with prodigious power. His own case he managed with great dexterity. For the cumulative arrangement of circumstantial evidence he was considered almost unrivalled. And in addressing a jury he had a wonderful skill in awakening that subtle, sympathetic response of their minds to his own, which is oftentimes the occasion of persuasion, more certainly than mere weight of argument. In short the office of public prosecutor probably has seldom been better filled. And perhaps it is fair to say that the Attorney who met, not without success and reputation, Mr. Choate, and even Mr. Webster, did enough for his fame.

It deserves to be noticed that the motive of the intensity, the almost fierceness, of the energy of Mr. Huntington as an accuser, is unquestionable. It was a love of justice, a real vindicative zeal. Other prosecutors might be cautious about bringing an action without a tolerable certainty of success. He, if he thought a man *guilty*, would push the case to the utmost, if he knew he should probably fail to convict. And to convict every criminal

he spared no effort. Even in later years, when his duties in court were very different, I have been struck with the strength of his feeling of abhorrence toward crime, and his satisfaction in its punishment. In his bearing toward his professional brethren, his fairness, his courtesy, and his imperturbable good humor, have ample testimony, and certain it is that no man was freer from professional jealousy, or with more heartiness accorded to every associate the meed of praise which was his due.

Little need be added to what has already been said to show that Mr. Huntington was a good citizen. His integrity, his genial manners, his fresh, bright way of entering into conversation upon whatever was uppermost in current thought, made him a popular member of society, and his worth to society was very generally appreciated. He touched society at many points, and his influence was very wide. In questions of public policy he was an interested and decided participant without being an extremist. He had not the instincts of a politician, and certainly never learned the arts of one, yet he performed a great deal of public service. His patriotism was a passion no less than a principle, and during the civil war he was ardent in his sympathies with the administration which seemed to him to represent the cause of his country, and personally depressed or jubilant as disaster or triumph befell the national arms. I can well remember the sadness of his face in some of the darkest hours of that protracted struggle, as well as the tenacity with which, through them all, he adhered to the conviction that but one course was to be thought of by this people, until the last dollar was spent, and the last right arm broken in defence of the Union. His public spirit was of the most genuine type, and most of his contributions of time and strength to the wel-

fare of this his adopted city, its schools, its financial interests, its charities, or its religious institutions, have been made when he was heavily burdened by professional engagements. His sympathy with the poor, the humble, the struggling, and the needy, was very sincere, and his generosity unfailing. He loaned to poor men sums which were by no means inconsiderable, upon which he could collect little or no interest, and which will not now be recovered without difficulty. He assumed responsibility, oftentimes, by bonds, for those who had no claim upon him, and could make him no return. And he gave freely, and widely, and liberally — it seemed to me sometimes beyond the measure of his means. In this kind of good works he was wholesouled, and unwearied.

In his interest in the Temperance Reform he was equally untiring, yet, of those who advocate extreme measures, he was one of the most moderate and wise. His life-long interest in the cause did not blind him to the tendency which has been developed within a few years past, to magnify particular measures unduly. The intolerant attack upon the President of the Massachusetts Temperance Alliance, by his own associates in office, was a matter of indignation to him, and the growing prominence of the party who instigated that attack, in the Alliance, alienated him from it not a little in the last two years of his life. To the policy of rearing a political party upon the one plank of prohibition *vs.* license, he was unalterably opposed. He could not subordinate all the interests dear to a patriot and a citizen, to one measure of a single reform, however wise he deemed the measure in itself considered. In this respect, as in others, the balance of our friend's mind may be discerned. He was far too wise to be either a rash leader, or a blind follower of party or public opinion. Yet it must be admitted, on the other side, that he was not a man to

stem party or public opinion, when he deemed its drift unfortunate or unwise. At such times he would rather recede from action and from notice, until a happier day should dawn. He would coöperate with a party when he could heartily, when he could not he would quietly let it alone.

Mr. Huntington would be remembered long and lovingly, by those who knew him, if there were no other reason, for his rare and priceless qualities as a friend. I confess I know not how to do justice to his memory in this respect. I have spoken of his general trustworthiness. His friends understood this, and learned to rest in him to the fullest degree, and with undoubting confidence. His friendship was as a tower of strength and a city of refuge. One could draw upon his sympathy, his counsel, his help, with unhesitating assurance. He was a most loyal friend, and a singularly patient and tolerant one. It seemed to me that no infirmity, no rashness, no error, no fault, in one he loved, disturbed for a moment the flow of his goodwill. He had a high, and at the same time, a discriminating appreciation of the general intentions and principles of men, and whom he esteemed at all he esteemed with a generous construction of their conduct that made his interest in them very uniform, and capable of standing very strong tests. And his friendships were unusually warm — few who saw him only in the ordinary walks of life could know the wealth of love of which he was capable, and which he lavishly bestowed. But those whose happiness it was to have enjoyed his confidence and affection, will agree in testifying that there could be no deeper, warmer, truer, or more faithful heart. One has few such friends in a lifetime. Many will say they have had but one, and for another they cannot hope. They will recall the words of David, when he mourned for Jonathan, "I am dis-

tressed for thee, my brother, very pleasant hast thou been to me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women."

It remains for me to speak of Mr. Huntington as a religious man. He became a regular attendant with this congregation soon after his coming to Salem. In 1826, when a council was called to consider the expediency of the removal of Rev. Dr. Cornelius to another sphere of usefulness, Mr. Huntington was made a corporator in the Tabernacle Society, that he might represent the people before the council, and from that date he was fully identified with all the interests of this congregation, and at all times a hearty, reliable, judicious, and liberal supporter of the Church and the Ministry. His contributions to the finances of the society have been exceeded by none, and without his presence a society meeting was hardly deemed complete.

His religious convictions were very decided. As has been already intimated his ancestors, for several generations, had been men distinguished for godliness, and strongly attached to the Puritan faith and order. Of the six of whom we have record, all were church members, two were deacons, and one a minister. It is not singular that as if by inheritance, our friend was a thorough New England churchman, warmly cherishing the faith of his fathers. He illustrated the truth that a very catholic spirit is not inconsistent with positive opinions intelligently held. The fundamental thing with him was his conviction of the Divine authority of the Scriptures, as a rule of faith. It was not for him to adjust his creed to his inclinations, his notions, or his fancies, his creed was fixed for him by the word of God. "One must accept *that*," he would say with heartiness, of a point of Christian doctrine, "one must accept that, or give up the Bible." And with respect to any such point there was no question which *he* should do. The doctrine was accepted with his whole soul.

He loved the truth. He was a most exemplary worshipper and hearer, almost never out of his place, either part of the day, and sometimes almost fasting at noon that he might be in a better condition to come to the house of God.

Of his attitude with respect to the claims of religion upon him personally, he chose to say very little. In fact, upon this subject as upon many others affecting him nearly, however accessible he was, however ready to converse, beyond a certain point he was exceedingly reticent. As has been intimated, he never made profession of his faith, or communicated with the church. For this fact I am very sorry, on his own account, and on many accounts. It was a limitation of his usefulness, and of his association with the Christian people of his time. But I believe myself to understand, I think any one knowing his temperament would understand just why he did not take this step which seemed so desirable for him, and that he did not, never made any material difference in my opinion, as to his real acceptance of the Gospel. As he made no professions on his own behalf it does not become me or any man to make any for him. The reticence which he preferred I shall not violate. The confidences which I received as his Pastor I regard sacred still. But it may be pardoned to me if I say, in the fulness of my love to him, that my heart rests to-day, as it has for years, in a good hope of him. I have known him intimately. I have seen him in many circumstances. I have been with him by the death-beds of the honored and the lowly. I have bowed with him in the great sorrows of his life, and of his goodness, of his piety, that a work of Divine Grace had penetrated his heart and life, I cannot entertain a doubt. Whether in the Heavenly Temple to which we are taught to look forward, among the glorious company of those "who have washed their robes and

made them white in the blood of the Lamb," I shall find *him*, seems to me to depend solely upon the question whether of God's infinite mercy, myself shall enter there. And while the memory of the just is blessed upon Earth, I delight to think rather that the life of the just made perfect, is more blessed, by far, in Heaven; and so I comfort myself, and would comfort you, with the thought that our loss is his eternal gain. May God grant us our part with him in this exalted destiny when our great change shall come!

The life upon which we have been meditating was peacefully closed on Beverly shore, September 5, in the forenoon, and two days later the dear remains were laid beside the ashes of his parents and kindred, in the village of his birth. O, that the memory of so much that was honorable, amiable, just and true, may abide with us as a quickening impulse! We are happy in having known and loved one of the noblest and best of men. We shall be happier if the recollection of him make us nobler and better ourselves. I believe that he would have us anew reminded to-day, that the rearing of *character* is the great work of life; and to that end he would have emphasized anew in our hearing, that great lesson of God's word which rings as a clarion note. "THE GRACE OF GOD WHICH BRINGETH SALVATION HATH APPEARED UNTO ALL MEN; TEACHING US THAT DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT WORLD, LOOKING FOR THAT BLESSED HOPE, EVEN THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST; WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURIFY UNTO HIMSELF A PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS." TO HIM BE GLORY AND DOMINION FOREVER. AMEN!

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ESSEX BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE SUPERIOR COURT,

ON THE DEATH OF

HON. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON.

SEPTEMBER, 1870.

PROCEEDINGS

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ESSEX BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE SUPERIOR COURT,

SEPTEMBER, 1870.

At the opening of the September Term of the Superior Court, at Newburyport, on Tuesday, the 6th of September, 1870, a special meeting of the Essex Bar Association was held, to take action upon the death of Mr. Huntington. There was a very full attendance of the Bar, Wm. C. Endicott, Esq., the President of the Association, presiding.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Hon. Alfred A. Abbott of Peabody, Hon. J. C. Perkins of Salem, Hon. Wm. D. Northend of Salem, Nathaniel G. White, Esq., of Lawrence, and Dean Peabody, Esq., of Lynn, to prepare a series of resolutions, or a memorial, as the committee should decide, to be presented to the Court.

The following gentlemen were appointed as a delegation of the Bar to attend the funeral of Mr. Huntington. The President of the Association, the Sheriff of the County, Horatio G. Herrick, Esq., Nathan W. Harmon, Esq., of Lawrence, John J. Marsh, Esq., of Haverhill, Hon. Eben F. Stone of Newburyport, Hon. Thomas B. Newhall of Lynn, and Daniel Saunders, Jr., Esq., of Lawrence.

It was also voted that the President be directed to move, on behalf of the Bar, that the Court adjourn without transacting any business until Monday, Sept. 18th, and also to inform the Court that the Bar desired at an early day, to pay a proper tribute of respect and affection to the memory of Mr. Huntington.

This motion was made by the President, and the Court adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the Bar, a memorial, prepared by Mr. Abbott, was reported by him from the committee appointed at the last meeting. It was voted that the same be presented to the Court, and that the President, with Mr. Abbott, and the Sheriff, be a committee to make the necessary arrangements for its presentation.

On Monday, Sept. 19th, in the Superior Court, then in session in Salem, Judge Putnam presiding, at three P. M. the cause on trial was suspended that the proceedings of the Bar might be presented to the Court. Notice had been previously given, and there was a large attendance of the Bar, and many citizens and friends of Mr. Huntington were present.

Mr. Abbott then read the following memorial: —

May it please your Honor: — The Hon. Asahel Huntington, one of the oldest members of the Essex Bar, and, at the time of his decease, its senior member in active professional labor, departed this life on Monday, the 5th instant, at the age of threescore and twelve years.

On the day following, the 6th instant, at the coming in of the Court for the present term, at Newburyport, a meeting of the

Essex Bar Association was held, and a committee appointed to embody in suitable form the sentiments of the members of the Bar, upon the death of their distinguished brother and friend; and the action of that committee having been approved and adopted by the Association, is now, by its order, respectfully presented to the Court, that the same may be entered upon its records, there to testify to those who shall come after them, the respect, veneration and love, with which his brethren cherished the memory of the lamented dead.

Mr. Huntington was born at Topsfield, in this county, July 23d, 1798. He was the son of the Rev. Asahel Huntington, the congregational minister of that town, a man of the old New England type, the influence of whose sterling traits and wise counsels did much to mould the character and shape the life of his distinguished son. He was fitted for College at Phillips Academy, Andover, graduated in course at Yale, in 1819, and pursued the study of the law in the offices of Mr. Scott, of Newburyport, and Judge Cummings, of Salem. He was admitted to practice in the Court of Common Pleas, at the March Term, 1824 (having spent a portion of his time after leaving college, in teaching), was made an Attorney of the Supreme Judicial Court, at the November Term, 1826, and two years thereafter became a Counsellor. Upon his first coming to the Bar, he commenced business in Salem (where he remained through his whole life), and at once entered upon a professional career, busy, eventful, useful and honored, from first to last.

In 1830 Mr. Huntington had so established his position and vindicated his claims to preferment, that he was appointed County Attorney, subsequently District Attorney (his field embracing Essex and a part of Middlesex), and afterwards Attorney for the

Eastern District, and this post of prosecuting officer he filled for nearly twenty years. To many of the present generation of lawyers his discharge of these official duties is matter of tradition. But they have heard from his earlier cotemporaries, of the zeal, the energy, the perseverance, the fearlessness and fidelity, the marked ability and the moral force with which he vindicated the majesty of the law and pursued and punished crime. It was in this position that Mr. Huntington won a reputation which was not confined to his native county, but gained a name and fame throughout the Commonwealth. He had to meet and contend with strong opponents, and was engaged in not a few cases which have become historic, but he shunned no encounter, and proved himself equal to every emergency. Mr. Choate, who came to the Bar in the same year with Mr. Huntington, and between whom and Mr. Huntington there existed an ardent friendship which was of life-long duration, Mr. Saltonstall, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Rantoul, Mr. Nathaniel J. Lord, Mr. Ward, with many others of eminent ability and skill, some of whom have passed away, and others of whom yet survive to dignify the Bench or adorn the Bar, were the men whom our deceased friend encountered in forensic strife, and always with credit and honor. In the noted Wyman trial he had to cope with Daniel Webster, and although the greatest lawyer of his age then exerted to the utmost his gigantic powers in defence of his client, the Government found in its Attorney an undaunted and worthy representative, who fairly divided the honors of the famous struggle.

Mr. Huntington's labors were by no means limited to the criminal side of the Court. He had an extensive general practice, and was retained in many of the more important civil causes of his day. He had always great and acknowledged strength

with an Essex county jury. In the first place, he was emphatically an Essex county man. A native, proud of the old Shire, familiar with her historic days and names, knowing all her local traditions, and conversant with her men and business, heartily sustaining every movement and supporting every institution which promised to advance her prosperity and welfare, from youth to old age he was an embodiment of the average sentiment of Essex county, in morals, politics and religion, and peculiarly one of her representative men. Then, as a lawyer, he entered with his whole soul into whatever cause he espoused. Sanguine, impassioned, vehement, not so much versed in the knowledge of cases and the nice learning of the law, as well grounded in its general and fundamental principles and familiar with and skilled in its practice, with a homely but strong logic, a manly good sense and sound judgment, a large acquaintance with men and affairs, and a perseverance and tenacity of purpose which sometimes even verged on obstinacy, with a flow of good humor and at the same time a caustic wit and power of satire which could be made terribly severe, with a sort of sledge-hammer style of enforcing his points, and beating them into convictions in the minds of others, and all this set off by a bluff, cordial, and hearty manner, and aided by the moral effect of a private character above reproach, it is not strange that Mr. Huntington had the confidence alike of clients and juries, that he was an eminently successful practitioner and advocate, and that he always kept in the front rank of the very ablest of his cotemporaries.

In 1851, Mr. Huntington, waiving the pursuit of higher honors to which he might well have aspired, accepted the appointment of Clerk of the Courts for the County, and in that office remained to the day of his death. It was in this position that he was best

known to, and will be more particularly remembered by, a majority of the present members of the Bar. There is no professional place more responsible than this, none the incumbent of which can do more for the convenience and comfort of his brethren, or for the orderly, reputable, and correct administration of justice. And, accordingly, the proper qualifications for it are exceptional and rare. To a sufficient degree of clerical accomplishments should be added an experimental knowledge of wide and varied practice, a full familiarity with the routine of business in the different courts, aptness, facility, promptness and method, critical accuracy and generous culture, patience and good temper, with decision and firmness, and, crowning all, that integrity of life, that affability of manners and dignity of presence and demeanor which can aid so much in securing respect for our judicial tribunals. To say that Mr. Huntington reached in full perfection this ideal standard, would be to attribute to him attainments and graces which were rarely if ever united in one man. But that he combined these qualifications to a remarkable extent, will be readily agreed. In no county of the Commonwealth have the proceedings in Court been conducted with more propriety, decorum and success than in Essex during his incumbency, and, upon the concurrent testimony of judges and lawyers, there is no county in which the Clerk has done more to systematize the practice, elevate the tone of manners and morals, and lend dignity and grace to the public administration of the law. Bench and Bar will deeply feel the irreparable loss occasioned by his death, but by his brethren of Essex will it be the most keenly appreciated. To the old he has been a trusted adviser; to the young a wise and faithful mentor; to all a counsellor and friend. He has held up and inculcated the highest standards of professional duty and

honor. He has in his own example furnished a striking model of professional conduct and courtesy. He has ever taken the liveliest interest in whatever concerned the good name or welfare of his associates. He has kept fresh the memories of the great lawyers of other days, and encouraged and inspired us by the recital of their achievements and successes. In an especial manner has he labored to preserve the decent observance of those mortuary tributes and rites which our fraternal relations so fully justify and demand. No worthy brother has passed away, whether from the obscure retirement of old age and infirmity, or from the arena of active duties, but that Mr. Huntington has been the first to recall and rehearse in charitable and affectionate words his merits, and to pay to his memory the last tokens of regard. And now that he too has gone, what less can we do than pause for a moment in our busy course, drop a loving tear upon his new-made grave, and while we recall with admiring recollection the strong mind, the resolute will, the kind heart, the eloquent speech, the genial presence, thank God for the blessing of his upright and useful life, testify to all men our appreciation of his worth, and here, within these walls where the echoes of his voice and the light of his countenance seem yet to linger, piously resolve to imitate his virtues and profit by his noble example?

Although what Mr. Huntington was, and what he did as a lawyer, is of more particular interest to his brethren, yet any sketch of him would be incomplete which failed to make some mention of his life and labors outside of his profession. From early manhood he always took a prominent part in public affairs. His fellow citizens commanded his services in the State Legislature, in the Constitutional Convention of 1853, as Mayor of the city of his residence, as the head of various institutions and corpora-

tions—and there was no good cause or deserving enterprise of his day in which he did not warmly enlist and support with all his characteristic zeal and ability. Probably no man personally knew or was personally known to so many of the people of Essex county, especially of the older class, and by all he was held in respect, by multitudes with strong personal regard. He was an active, earnest and loyal citizen, a kind and hospitable neighbor, a true and steadfast friend, an honest Christian gentleman. From the community of which he was thus the ornament and pride, from the fraternity who were bound to him by strong and tender ties, from the domestic circle upon whose sacred sorrows no stranger may intrude, he has been suddenly taken away, but yet fortunate in the opportunity of his death as of his life. Although he had passed the allotted years of man, no lingering disease had wasted his powers, no infirmities of mind or body indicated the ravages of age. His eye was not dim nor his natural force abated. His countenance still wore the freshness of youth, his step was elastic and firm, his whole bearing manly and vigorous, his spirits as generous and free, and his heart seemingly as young as in the prime of life. And so, leaving this bright image stamped ineffaceably upon the memories of all, his work on earth fully done, he passed from among us, and with faith in God and trust in a Redeemer, went to his eternal rest.

May it please your Honor, I now move, in behalf of the members of the Essex Bar Association, that this memorial of their departed friend and brother may be placed upon the records of the Court.

Wm. C. Endicott, Esq., President of the Essex Bar, then addressed the Court, and concluded by seconding, on behalf of the

Bar, the motion of Mr. Abbott. Addresses were also made by the District Attorney, Edgar J. Sherman, Esq., of Lawrence, Hon. J. C. Perkins, of Salem, Hon. Thomas B. Newhall, of Lynn, Henry Carter, Esq., of Haverhill, Hon. Wm. D. Northend, of Salem, Hon. Eben F. Stone, of Newburyport and Stephen B. Ives, Jr., Esq., of Salem.

It is seldom, on occasions like this, that so many desire to bear public testimony to the worth and virtues of the dead. The tributes, thus paid, were full of feeling, and bore witness, not only to the respect with which Mr. Huntington was regarded, but to the warm affections he inspired.

Judge Putnam then addressed the Bar as follows:

Gentlemen of the Bar of Essex:—The death of one who occupied so prominent a position as our late friend and brother in this community—one so much beloved and esteemed by us all, and one so worthy of all the love and respect which were heaped upon him—is an event which may well call for more than a mere passing notice; and it is eminently proper that we should pause for a moment at least, in the midst of our professional pursuits, for the purpose of paying a fitting tribute to his memory.

I have listened, with feelings of the deepest sensibility to the words of affectionate remembrance and eulogy which have fallen from the lips of those of you who knew him and appreciated him so well. And while in behalf of the Superior Court, which I have the honor to represent, I tender to you my sincerest sympathy in the loss which you have sustained, I feel how inadequate will be any suggestions of my own to add to the impression

which your own eloquent and touching words have left in the hearts of all whom I see around me. I deem it a privilege, however, to be permitted to add very briefly my own heartfelt tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Of Mr. Huntington as a lawyer, it does not become me to speak in this presence. You who were his associates at the Bar have just told us of the professional success and honor which crowned him, and it is enough for me to say that he has left behind him, as a lawyer, a reputation which any of us might envy. Nor do I propose to add one word to what has been so fitly said in your memorial, of the almost faultless manner in which he discharged his official duties as District Attorney and Clerk of the Courts. I propose only to allude, very briefly, to some traits of his personal character, which seem to me worthy of notice.

My acquaintance with Mr. Huntington began when I first came to this county to discharge the duties of this Court, soon after its organization, in 1860. I can never forget the strong impression he at once made upon me, and how soon I came to esteem and love him. I was often with him during the intermissions of the Court. His conversation at those times showed me how much he retained his love for his profession, and his interest in its welfare. He always closely watched the trial of cases of importance, and his remarks from time to time as to the management of them, indicated how keenly he still relished the conflicts of the Bar, and how jealous he still was for the professional honor and success of his former associates. He had an innate sense of justice which never suffered him to be silent when he saw that a wrong was intended to be done. He denounced with a special aversion and contempt, all meanness and hypocrisy of every kind. He saw, at once, through all shams and pretences,

but in his criticisms there was nothing rancorous or malignant. His instincts were all kindly and genial. In simplicity and truthfulness of character, he was almost childlike, and yet, in firmness, courage and inflexibility of purpose, he was almost heroic. He was active and prominent in all the moral and benevolent enterprises of the day. He was a Christian without any bigotry, for he esteemed personal character as deeper than any creed.

In his social and private life he endeared himself to every one. His personal recollections of men and events of former days, particularly of those connected with this immediate vicinity, were abundant and always interesting. As a friend, he was ever true and faithful. His warm, genial, and sympathizing heart had a place for all and a kindly greeting for all. His tastes were all pure, simple and healthful.

He was always cheerful and hopeful. The great philosophic poet of England seems to me not inaptly to have characterized our friend in these words:

> "A man he seemed of cheerful yesterdays,
> And confident to-morrows; with a face
> Not worldly minded, for it bore too much
> Of Nature's impress—gayety and health,
> Freedom and hope; but keen withal and shrewd;
> His gestures, note,—and hark! his tones of voice
> Are all vivacious as his mien and looks."

And now, while the glory of the summer is waning, and all nature is rendering up to us her rich and golden harvests, we have returned our friend, in the ripeness and maturity of his years, to the bosom of his mother earth. It is difficult to realize that he has actually passed away from us. We shall miss him

from his accustomed seat. We shall behold no longer before us that benignant countenance, that noble presence—itself a perpetual benediction. We shall continue to press on in our hot pursuit of the shadows of life, while he has already grasped the realities. But we shall never forget his many virtues, for we have enshrined them in our hearts and affections.

Your memorial, gentlemen, seems to be but a fitting tribute to the character of our deceased friend, and I shall order it to be entered at length on the records of this Court.

PROCEEDINGS

OF VARIOUS SOCIETIES AND CORPORATIONS WITH WHICH

MR. HUNTINGTON WAS CONNECTED.

RESOLUTIONS.

ESSEX INSTITUTE.

The committee appointed at the meeting of the Essex Institute, held Sept. 5, to prepare a series of resolutions upon the death of their late ex-president, Hon. Asahel Huntington, respectfully report as follows: —

(Signed) ABNER C. GOODELL, Jr.,

For Committee.

ALLEN W. DODGE,
A. C. GOODELL,
JAMES KIMBALL,
} *Committee.*

Resolved, That the Essex Institute receives the tidings of the death of Asahel Huntington, a former president of this Society, with emotions of surprise and grief. The suddenness of the event, which would have been unlooked for because of the general good health and strength of the deceased, even if his illness had been of longer duration, is as impressive as the knowledge of the loss of a member of society, so useful, and so widely known, and respected.

Resolved, That this Society acknowledges its indebtedness to the deceased for the interest he manifested in its success, and for the services rendered by him while chief presiding officer; and its members, as his fellow citizens, bear testimony to his uniform urbanity, his great industry, and his devotion to so many objects conducive to the public good.

Resolved, That the Hon. Otis P. Lord be invited to prepare a memorial address upon the life and character of the deceased, to be read at a meeting of the Institute.

Resolved, That this Society express its sympathy for the family of the deceased in their bereavement by communicating to them a copy of these resolutions, and that the same be recorded by the Secretary.

At the Special Meeting of the Institute called for this purpose the above resolutions were unanimously adopted.

JOHN ROBINSON, *Secretary.*

Salem, Sept. 9th, 1870.

In City Council, City of Salem,

September 12th, 1870.

Whereas, By the inscrutable decrees of Providence we have been called upon to mourn the loss by death of Hon. Asahel Huntington, formerly Chief Magistrate of this City, and

Whereas, We are desirous of placing upon record some testimonial of our sense of the loss, and of our respect and esteem for the deceased as a citizen and magistrate, and of recognizing his faithful performance of the duties of Mayor of our City, therefore,

Resolved, That by the death of the late Asahel Huntington the City has lost one who, during his long residence among us, was a useful, honored and respected citizen; one who possessing,

as he did in the highest degree, the confidence of all, was repeatedly called to offices of honor and trust and who brought to the discharge of their duties that eminent ability and tireless energy which were ever his characteristics.

Resolved, That these Resolutions be entered at large on the records of the City, and a copy thereof furnished to the family of the deceased in token of our sympathy with them in their affliction.

In Board of Aldermen,

September 12th, 1870.

Unanimously adopted and sent down for concurrence.

S. P. WEBB, *Clerk.*

In Common Council,

September 12th, 1870.

Unanimously concurred in.

E. N. WALTON, *Clerk.*

NAUMKEAG STEAM COTTON COMPANY.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company, held September 17th, 1870, the committee appointed at the last meeting (consisting of Mr. William C. Endicott, Mr. Francis Cox and Mr. John D. Parker), presented, through Mr. Endicott, the following resolutions, which after an address by the Chairman, Mr. Richard P. Waters, were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the Directors of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company desire to express their full appreciation of the life and character of their late President, the Hon. Asahel Huntington, and their deep sense of the great loss which they have sustained in his death.

He was an honest and true man, earnest in his action, sincere in his convictions, and conscientious in his conduct. He endeavored always to do what was right, and was aided by a devout spirit and a strong religious faith. Endowed with large abilities and a vigorous and determined will, he was most efficient in whatever he undertook, and was a zealous champion of any cause he espoused. As a lawyer he gained a wide reputation, as a public officer he was without reproach, and in the various and important trusts committed to his charge he had the esteem and confidence of his fellow men. As a friend he was beloved for his warm heart, his ready sympathy and willing ear, his kindliness and cordiality of manner. After a long life of usefulness, in the full maturity of his powers, before his bodily strength failed him or his mind was dimmed by age, he has been gathered to his fathers; leaving to the world an honorable name and a precious memory to those who loved him.

Resolved, That we can testify to the great interest he ever felt in this Corporation, to his zealous efforts for its prosperity and success, and to the steady fidelity with which he performed the duties of his office. We recall with pleasure the personal relations he sustained to the members of this Board. We can never forget his genial presence and his hearty greeting, and shall ever esteem it among the pleasures and privileges of life to have enjoyed his friendship.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere sympathy to his family in their great affliction, and the Clerk is instructed to send them a copy of these resolutions.

RICHARD P. WATERS,

President pro tem.

HENRY D. SULLIVAN, *Clerk.*

Salem, Sept. 19th, 1870.

DUMMER ACADEMY.

NEWBURYPORT, MASS.,

To Oct. 4th, 1870.

MRS. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON,

Dear Madam: — At a recent meeting of the Trustees of DUMMER ACADEMY the following expression of their feelings was made at their loss of an endeared and highly esteemed associate.

The Hon. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON having been connected with the government of this venerable institution for a quarter of a century, and during that entire period having contributed, without stint, his time and talents to the administration of its affairs, we, his surviving associates esteem it a duty and a privilege to testify our deep sense of grief and bereavement at his decease, and our appreciation of his great worth.

Notwithstanding the calls of a laborious profession, and the demands upon him in varied spheres of honorable employment,

no one was more prompt and regular in attendance at the meetings of the Board, to aid by his advice and counsel from the rich fund of wisdom and experience with which his mind was stored. He labored unweariedly to promote the best good of the school, to extend its usefulness, and to make it, as designed by its founder more than a century ago, a nursery wherein "to qualify youth for important offices in Church and State." In times of depression to which it has been subjected, no one was more hopeful of the future, or enjoyed more fully the dawning of its return to its ancient renown. Full of ready sympathy, when personal misfortunes overtook any of the Trustees, the Teachers or the Students, he sorrowed with them in all their calamities.

We join with the whole community in mourning the loss of a wise counsellor, a discreet philanthropist, a good citizen, but especially do we lament him as our friend and associate on this Board.

Resolved, That this tribute be entered by the Secretary upon our records, and that a copy be transmitted to his family in testimony of the esteem which we entertained for him while living, and of the regard with which we shall never cease to hold his memory now that he has gone.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the "Salem Gazette" and "Newburyport Herald."

With very kind regards, I am

Truly yours,

S. J. SPALDING.

OFFICE HOLYOKE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,

SALEM, MASS., October 5th, 1870.

AT a meeting of the Directors of the Company held at their office on Tuesday, 4th inst., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of this Board it has pleased the Divine Disposer of all events, to remove from us, by death, our late associate, the Hon. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON.

Resolved, That we avail ourselves with melancholy satisfaction, of this occasion, to express our profound sorrow for his loss, and to add our tribute to the many that have been rendered, of respect to his memory and his character.

Resolved, That while we gladly recognize and testify to the unsullied integrity, personal worth, sound learning and varied information of the deceased, we desire here more especially to express our high appreciation of the conscientious fidelity, with which, amid graver cares and responsibilities, he discharged his duties as a member of this Board, and as one of its Committees. His tact and good judgment, his large influence and legal knowledge often indicated him as peculiarly qualified for certain special duties which, when requested by the Board he accepted with ready courtesy. We shall miss much his valuable aid and his untiring devotion to the interests of the Company, but yet more shall we miss the sweet charm and benediction of his presence.

A true copy of Record,

Attest,

THOMAS H. JOHNSON,

Sec'y Holyoke Insurance Company.

ESSEX SOUTH DISTRICT TEMPERANCE UNION.

SALEM, October 5th, 1870.

To the family and friends of the late Hon. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON:

I have been directed by the Essex South District Temperance Union to forward to you the following Preamble and Resolutions passed by them at their Annual Meeting, held in Beverly this day:

Very respectfully,

E. VALENTINE, *Secretary.*

Whereas, it hath pleased God in his infinite wisdom to remove from among us, one of our most earnest, able and active members, the Hon. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON of Salem, therefore

Resolved, That we hereby express our unfeigned sorrow at this sad event; and bear our testimony to his worth as a man and a citizen, and to his life long labors in and for this great reform. That his services have been invaluable to our cause; and his name will ever be revered and honored.

Resolved, That we hereby express our heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family in this hour of their affliction and commend them to Him who is the God of the widow, and the Father of the fatherless.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and be published in the Daily papers.

Memorial Address

BY

Hon. Otis P. Lord.

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE ESSEX INSTITUTE,

AT A SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1871.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS.

Mr. President: It is an ordination of Providence, that social life shall be continuous. Communities do not cease to exist. Their members are constantly passing away, and they are succeeded by others and the common life goes steadily on. The vacancy occasioned by the departure of an individual, however eminent, is soon filled. As the human organization remains the same, though its constituent particles are in process of perpetual decay and renewal, so a community continues to be identical, though every member of it is changed. It is, indeed, only natural that in our first thoughts upon the void occasioned by the death of a great and good man, we should feel that society itself has undergone a change, and that the loss to it is irreparable; and when the death is that of an intimate and prized friend, there comes, also, the feeling of opportunities lost, of occasions neglected when we should have learned more of his virtues and treasured more carefully his excellences; the feeling, that if the companionship could be restored to us, but for a short time, we would know him better and more intimately.

In the freshness of our sorrow we overlook a great law of human existence, which reasserts itself on calmer reflection, and we perceive that grief like this is a superficial and, to some extent, a selfish emotion.

It is undoubtedly a beneficent arrangement of the Divine wisdom, that we live with our friends not as if they were about to die, but rather as though they would be always with us. If, in obedience to that law by which death is appointed for all, a friend is taken away, we have his life to comfort and instruct us.

The only memorial of the good man, which is not worthless, is a review of his life—a recurrence to his daily walk, with all its acts and charities, in which we find the evidences and the elements of character. Statues and mausoleums are meaningless, if the life, which they would commemorate, does not give them vitality; for we value the tomb because of the life which consecrates it, and not the life because of the tomb, however splendid. The grandest sepulchres of the world, immortalizing no great deed, are regarded but as monuments of wasted labor; while the mere recital of one high act of charity, which developed the life and character of a poor and obscure widow, is itself a memorial that can never perish.

It is in this view that I have accepted your invitation to prepare and read before you a memorial of our late honored and respected fellow citizen—the Honorable Asahel Huntington—and I shall best satisfy myself, and, I doubt not, you also, by a simple narration of those incidents and traits, which secured to him the eminent position he held while he lived, and which afford to us the sweet memories that we would fondly cherish.

He was born at Topsfield, in this county, July 23, 1798. He was the son of Rev. Asahel and Mrs. Alethea (Lord) Huntington. At the time of his birth, his father was the acceptable and beloved pastor of the Congregational church and society of that town. His first ancestor, who arrived in this country, landed in Boston, in 1633, a widow with five children; her husband, Simon

Huntington, from Norwich in England, having died upon the passage. One of these children, Christopher Huntington, settled in Norwich, Connecticut. Christopher's son Christopher lived in that part of Norwich, which is now Franklin. His son, Barnabas, was the father of Rev. Asahel Huntington, the father of him whose life we commemorate. All these men, influential and respected in their time, holding commanding positions in the church and in their municipalities, were of the kind which created New England character. The farm which the second Christopher owned and occupied in Franklin, was lately owned and occupied by Azariah Huntington, a cousin of our friend, having descended unalienated and undivided through four generations. The mother of Asahel was one of five daughters of Dr. Elisha Lord of Pomfret, Connecticut, "a good physician and a good man." These five sisters were all married, and with one exception left children surviving them. The eldest married Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland and resided in Topsfield. They were all, for their time, of unusual culture. Though separated by a long distance difficult to be overcome, a year seldom passed without a reunion either in Connecticut or Massachusetts. These delightful gatherings were not without influence as well upon the subject of these remarks as upon others connected with them. Endowed by nature with persons more than comely, with marked superiority of intellect, and graced by those charms of character which delight and attract, they were women from whom descend men of the highest type of manhood.

Upon both sides our friend came from unmixed Puritan stock. The Rev. Mr. Huntington, his father, was graduated with the highest honors of the class at Dartmouth College in 1786, and was settled in Topsfield in 1789. He was a true specimen of

the New England pastor, and might well have sat for the village preacher of Goldsmith:

> "A man he was to all the country dear,
> And passing rich with forty pounds a year."

The village pastor, of the latter part of the last century and the beginning of this, is a character unknown at the present day.

Like most others of the class, Mr. Huntington was pastor, farmer and schoolmaster. A portion of the time he taught the public school, or, in the language of the day, he kept the town school. His teaching, however, was not thus limited. As was the custom at that time, when there were few academies and no high schools, he, like many other clergymen, took scholars from abroad into his family, some to fit for college, others, especially mates of vessels, to educate in the science of navigation. Besides his own children, he had pupils from Boston, from this city, from Newburyport, from Ipswich and occasionally a Creole from the West Indies.

It is, of itself, a eulogy upon his character and influence that so many young men from the small village of Topsfield and its vicinity were induced and aided by him to seek a public education. Of these, were that beloved man, so affectionately remembered by all the older citizens of this place, the Hon. David Cummins, for many years a leader of the bar of this county, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas — as pure minded and upright a magistrate as ever graced the ermine in any State; the late Benjamin Althorp Gould, so long the distinguished master of the Boston Latin School; the Hon. Asa Waldo Wildes, for many years the chairman of the County Commissioners of this county; Rev. Jacob Hood, Rev. Ebenezer Perkins, Dr. Israel Balch, Dr. Josiah Lamson, and Dr. George Osborne — all well known in this

vicinity. There was, also, another pupil during several years under his instruction, a cousin of Asahel, Nehemiah Cleaveland, LL. D., the elegant scholar and accomplished gentleman, who long presided over that ancient institution, known as Dummer Academy, beloved and respected by all his pupils; still living in advanced and vigorous manhood, receiving the grateful esteem of hundreds of pupils, whose course and usefulness in life had its first impulse from his kind and courteous instruction. I am glad to be able on this occasion to pay my personal tribute of respect and affectionate veneration to my earliest instructor in an academic institution, and to acknowledge my indebtedness to him for what is of value in this memorial of his kinsman, between whom and himself, during a contemporaneous life of three-score and ten years, there had been unbroken, mutual confidence, respect and love.

The fitting a young gentleman for college was, then, an entirely different thing from the same task, at present; and without making comparisons, the village clergyman of Topsfield might well have boasted of the preparations he had made. It was not usual, at that time, to test the capacity of a boy's mind by the quantity of heterogeneous matter which could be crammed into it. The foundation of instruction was discipline. The mind and body were both disciplined; obedience and self-control were cardinal virtues. The mind was an instrument to work, and by discipline to become self-acting, and to impress itself upon its acts; not a mere reservoir, to receive what could be forced into it and to take impression from what came in contact with it. A preparation for college was rather to teach the boy how to study than merely to impart knowledge.

Like most fathers of the time Mr. Huntington thought it de-

sirable that his son should have the advantage of study away from home, and at the age of eleven years he was sent to the academy at Bradford and became a boarder in the family of Rev. Mr. Allen, then the minister of the town. The means of the father did not justify the payment of board, and Asahel was taken into the family of a brother clergyman and boarded in compensation for the labor he could perform in taking care of the minister's cow and horse, and doing the chores of the family. Young as he was, the advantages from this contract were not all on his side. Even before this period, I have the authority of the cousin, to whom I have referred, for saying: — "he was sensible and serious, earnest and practical, a willing, capable and diligent boy. In a family like his father's, with a small farm to be looked after, there is always plenty of work, and this strong, willing lad early began to do more, perhaps, than his share. No labor within the compass of his ability was so hard or so unpleasant, that he did not bend to it with a will. The problem of life — in so far as that means the getting of a living — seemed to have caught his attention at a period when boys, in general, think of little beyond their studies and their play. He discovered very early the value of property, being eager to earn and careful to save." By laboring for the neighbors in the vicinity for small compensation, by raising fowls and husbanding their produce, he was enabled to embark in the business of sheep raising, and while yet a mere lad, became the owner of a flock of very considerable value. During his stay at Bradford I am inclined to think that he acquired but little except discipline — and those associations and memories with which, in the latter years of his life, he was accustomed, occasionally, to regale his more intimate acquaintances.

He was in his fifteenth year when his father died, after an ill-

ness of only four days. His elder brother, Elisha, afterwards a physician of much respectability, and frequently honored with important trusts by the people of Lowell, where he resided, and also by the people of the Commonwealth in electing him to the office of Lieut. Governor, was, at the time, in college. A younger brother, Hezekiah, who died quite young, was sickly and weak, and the care of the home and farm devolved almost wholly upon Asahel. These duties he performed with an ability and discretion beyond his years. He had all but the entire direction and did a large part of the work with his own hands.

Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland, between whom and his brother-in-law there existed a friendship of unusual strength with a mutual confidence, administered upon the estate of Mr. Huntington, and became the legal guardian of the five fatherless children. The property, though considerable, in view of the circumstances and conditions under which it had been acquired, was yet hardly equal in amount to our friend's annual official income, during the last years of his life. As the guardian, and kind, judicious friend of young Asahel, Dr. Cleaveland did much towards laying the solid foundations of his character, and was at that time undoubtedly more instrumental in accomplishing the wishes and aims of his relative in the education of his son, than any, or than all other persons; and it would not be pardoned, if I omitted a passing notice of this most excellent man.

Inheriting from a father, who was eminently a patriot Christian pastor, the principles of the men who laid the foundations of our republic, and himself, when a mere boy of seventeen, enlisting in the service of the country during one of the darkest years of the revolutionary struggle, he lived to become a marked man in the history of his native county. Deprived, by the severity of the

times, of the collegiate education which his father had designed for him, he devoted himself after leaving the army, to the study of medicine, first at Byfield under the care of his brother, Dr. Parker Cleaveland, and subsequently in Ipswich, under the tuition of Dr. John Manning, then eminent as a physician, and commenced the practice of his profession in Topsfield. During a long and honorable life, he enjoyed the respectful esteem of his contemporaries; called at various times to the highest political and judicial offices in the county, he performed every duty with an ability and fidelity which reflected upon him high honor.

To the care of such a counsellor was young Huntington committed; and I should fail in that part of my duty, which my friend, could he speak, would be least willing to have omitted, did I not speak of the parental care and affection, which this truly wise and affectionate guardian bestowed upon his young ward. The little patrimony was carefully and anxiously preserved. By his counsels and by his support, the young man was encouraged and sustained in all the efforts and sacrifices necessary to secure the education, which the death of his father had well nigh prevented. Of him might our friend say, in the language of the youthful bard:

> "Some I remember and will ne'er forget,
> My early friends * * * *
> My counsellors * * * my guides
> * * * * * * * in doubt
> My oracles, my wings in high pursuit."

The influences which form and develop character are silent and oftentimes secret, and yet, so far as we can now see, we are authorized to attribute the course and the character of our friend very much to the formative guidance and direction of his beloved

and respected uncle, whose interest in the welfare of his ward continued long after he had entered upon the active scenes and duties of life.

. When, at the close of the sad, industrious summer which succeeded the death of his father, the uncle advised his nephew and ward to enter Phillips' Academy, with a view to college, he at first objected, from doubts and fears of the expense. He knew how small was his own share of the little property, and probably thought that his mother and sisters, and perhaps his brothers, might feel the need of his continued and not unskilful toil. But the judicious friend, then standing in the place of a parent, understood his capacities and knew much more than he did of life and the world, and soon convinced him that an education, though at first expensive and liable to be embarrassing, would more than repay its cost, and be far better in the end not only for himself, but for those in whom he felt so deeply interested.

Yielding to these considerations, he entered Phillips' Academy in the autumn of 1813, where his habits were studious and his conduct exemplary. He was manly in his deportment, yet not, I am glad to say, without a vein of roguishness. The boy without this element seldom shows much manliness in later life. At Andover, he had for his classmate, and part of the time for a roommate, Milton P. Braman, now so well known among us as an able divine and brilliant writer. He was the son of Rev. Isaac Braman of New Rowley, now Georgetown. The fathers of these boys had lived in the closest intimacy, and their mutual regard was easily and naturally transmitted to their sons. Unlike in temperament and tastes, they soon became strongly attached to each other, and the friendship then begun was never broken. The following remarks in relation to his former schoolmate are taken

from a recent letter of the Rev. Dr. Braman, and will interest and possibly surprise some of those who knew our friend well. "When a youth, he had a most exuberant love of *fun*. His sense of the comic and ludicrous was very keen; and he was accustomed to divert himself, greatly, with the eccentricities, curious peculiarities, petty foibles and amusing habits of those within his observation, whose demeanor in those particularities was strongly marked. His humor was much expended when a youth in laughable practical jokes, which, as his age became riper, he put away with other childish things. As this propensity became chastened by age, you know how much it contributed to the agreeableness of his society."

Many, whom I address, have undoubtedly heard him, half-seriously and half-jokingly, claim to be a soldier of the war of 1812. It is well known that the people of Boston and its vicinity were alarmed, while the British men-of-war were upon our coast, lest the territory should be invaded. The boys of Phillips' Academy, young Huntington among the number, desired to do what they might in their country's cause, and, in a body, walked to Charlestown, labored with their spades for a whole day upon the redoubts, and walked back again to Andover and to their studies, not only with a consciousness of duty performed, but proud and happy that they had elicited words of compliment and commendation from that great man, Josiah Quincy, who was then one of the trustees of Phillips' Academy, and who had gone to Charlestown not only to see, but to praise them.

In consequence of his limited means, he was received at the academy as a beneficiary, but the bread then cast upon the waters after many days returned.

Within a few years past, the academy building was destroyed

by fire, and a meeting of the Alumni was called to provide means for rebuilding it. Our friend, if he did not originate the call, was among the first to respond to it, and was selected to preside over the deliberations. By his own liberal subscription, and by his zealous and effective aid, in procuring contributions from others, he more than repaid in money what he had received, thus evincing a grateful and affectionate attachment to his early benefactor more valuable even than his gift.

He entered Yale College in 1815, and was graduated in course in 1819. I have again to acknowledge my indebtedness to the kinsman before referred to, who has not only favored me with his own reminiscences, but has obtained from Mr. Jonathan Edwards, a classmate of his cousin, now living in New Haven, this testimony: —

"As he was in a different division of the class, and roomed at a distance from me" (in the early part of his college life he did not occupy a room in the college buildings) "I saw but little of him in his early college career. I knew, however, that he was exemplary in his deportment, accurate in scholarship, regular in attendance on college duties and more mature in character than most around him. I never knew him engaged in any of the dissipation or light amusement, which engrossed so much of the time of many others. He was kind, courteous and conciliating in his intercourse with others; made many friends, but no enemies, and preserved through his college life the character of a gentleman. As I recollect him, he possessed then the genial manners, which he retained through life. * * * He was among the first scholars of his class having an oration assigned him at Commencement."

There is abundant evidence that during his course his rank

in all respects was high, and that it was continually improving. In his senior year, he won the Berkleyan prize for excellence in classic literature, but was, however, deprived of the benefit of it, which is conditioned upon a residence in New Haven. Such residence Mr. Huntington contemplated, and actually made the city his home for a few months after graduation; not long enough, however, to entitle him to receive any portion of the Berkleyan bounty.

Having fixed upon the profession of the law as best adapted to his habits of thought, his disposition and his tastes, and being still in straitened circumstances, he selected Newburyport as a place, where, situated as he was, he could most successfully and least expensively pursue his studies. It was the place of residence of the late Hon. Asa W. Wildes, a gentlemen from Topsfield, a pupil of his father, then a young practitioner of the law, who invited Mr. Huntington into his family, where he found a pleasant home. Mr. Wildes was a gentleman of great amiability of character, a warm friend and a genial companion; and when, in the later years of his life, misfortunes and reverses overtook him, they, who knew these early associations, understood the fidelity and the affection, with which Mr. Huntington adhered to his friend and former benefactor. He never ceased, however changed the circumstances, to remember a kindness, and while he repaid such debts in kind even usuriously, he never withheld that better than payment in kind — his grateful remembrance of it. He entered the office of John Scott, Esq., then also a young lawyer of Newburyport. Mr. Scott died while Mr. Huntington was still a student in his office, leaving a widow and several small children, and as is the case with most young attorneys, he was poor. The widow and several of the children

died before Mr. Huntington; but his quiet, unobtrusive, and almost unobserved devotion to that widow and those fatherless children, during her life and as long as he lived, was more like romance than like real life. There were no relations between them or between their families, either of consanguinity or association — there was nothing in the social position — nothing to call forth the sympathy and assistance, which extended through a period of time equal to an estimated generation — except widowed and orphan dependence. To this call the heart, the purse, the sympathy of our friend always responded.

At the time he was in the office of Mr. Scott, there was, in Newburyport, an unusual proportion of intelligent and cultivated young men, many of them originating and residing there, or in the immediate vicinity, and no inconsiderable number from abroad, pursuing their studies preparatory to entering upon their respective professions. Probably there was no more brilliant coterie of young gentlemen in the Commonwealth; certainly none in any single municipality so unpretentious as Newburyport. Very many of them, as you are probably all aware, were made famous by the genius of that gifted poetess, Miss Gould, in those choice morceaux in the form of epitaphs, so pleasantly and humorously descriptive of their more prominent peculiarities. Of all those thus early dedicated to fame by her graphic pen, the honorable Caleb Cushing of Newburyport, and Bailey Bartlett, Esq. of Lawrence, alone survive. Taken in connection with what Dr. Braman says of Mr. Huntington's fondness for deriving amusement from the eccentricities, curious peculiarities and petty foibles of others, I am prepared to believe what I am told by an eminent literary man, a native of Newburyport, that the materials for all these epitaphs were furnished by Mr. Huntington, and that they were

prepared at his suggestion and under his personal supervision; while that upon himself, which was one of the earliest, if not the very first in point of time, was merely a ruse to divert attention from any suspicion of his participation. It is not, however, upon these effusions that the fame and the literary position of their author is based. The gentleman to whom I have referred, himself a poet of much distinction, the Hon. George Lunt, in a recent communication to me thus refers to the intimacy which existed and continued between these two persons: — "During Mr. Huntington's student life at Newburyport, he was on terms of intimacy with a lady of large literary celebrity in her day, and in a day when few ladies made literary pretensions, the late Miss Hannah Flagg Gould. Though considerably younger than Miss Gould, the intimacy then formed was cordial and sincere, and remained unbroken until the decease of the once famous poetess, a few years ago. Doubtless, the fact that she also was of Topsfield origin led to the acquaintance, for, though a professed admirer of her verses, the tastes of Mr. Huntington were in the direction of his legal studies, rather than in the way of general reading, especially of poetry. At that time, Miss Gould resided with her father, a plain, worthy and venerable man, who had been a captain in the war of the revolution; and after his decease and that of other members of the family, she continued to occupy the same dwelling. * * * She had many distinguished visitors from other parts of the country, attracted by her poetical reputation and one of those, who never failed to pay her his respects, was the late respected Judge Daniel A. White of this city, himself a gentleman of no mean culture, who always entertained a high opinion of her verses and was her warm personal friend. * * * Many of her poems enjoyed remarka-

ble popularity during her life and are still favorites. Her themes are almost always simple and familiar, distinguished by delicacy and purity of sentiment and by exemplary correctness of versification, and no American female has yet appeared so likely to be permanently remembered as she, for some of her poetical pieces. As an instance of her general accomplishment, at a time when such an acquisition was much more rare than at present, upon the occasion of Lafayette's spending a night at Newburyport in 1824, she was introduced to him by the town authorities as the one lady able to converse with him in his native tongue. It speaks well for the soundness of Mr. Huntington's moral sense, that he found pleasure in the familiar society of such a woman and that the friendship continued while she lived."

The young gentlemen to whom I have referred as the associates of Mr. Huntington, at Newburyport, had established a Debating Society or Club, of which he became an active and earnest member. Indeed, at that, as well as at every other time of his life, for him to be engaged in any enterprise was to be active and earnest in it. He frequently, perhaps generally, participated in the discussions, and his mode of debate was marked by the same peculiarities, which afterwards became so well known to the bar and to the public. He loved discussion, and the more earnest and excited it was, the more pleasurable was it to him. And he carried his discussions beyond the limits of the debating club. Newburyport was then a town, and her public affairs were discussed in that most perfect of all democracies, and that strongest of all citadels of civil liberty — town meeting. Mr. Huntington being "of age" and resident at Newburyport, did not fail to attend the town meeting. At such a meeting, some of the influential citizens proposed a measure, which they were strongly bent on carrying

and which they had no doubt of being able to carry. After they had spoken in its advocacy, and had been heard with apparent favor, young Huntington rose, in accordance with a previous design, opposed the measure at some length and defeated it. His opposition was most unexpected and filled the advocates with surprise, disappointment and mortification.

On leaving Newburyport, he came to Salem and entered the law office of the Hon. David Cummins, of whom I have before spoken as a pupil of the Rev. Mr. Huntington of Topsfield. It would be pleasant to linger a moment upon the memory of that beloved man, still green in the hearts of the older portion of our community; especially upon those endearing traits of character and temperament, which, while they rendered his success as a magistrate less conspicuous, only bound him more closely by the ties of respect and love. With an ardor and a vehemence of action in the trial of causes never equalled at the Essex bar, his great powers were never excited except upon the side of charity, virtue and truth; but I must content myself by saying, that the pupil of the father was the eminently fit instructor of the son. Not far from this time, Mr. Huntington taught the district school in North Beverly, and I refer to the fact, especially, because he so endeared himself to the boys and girls of his school, that they ever after, even to the time of his death, seemed to regard him as theirs; and the counsels which he commenced with them as boys and girls, he continued to give them as men and women, whether they were required in matters of law, of morals, of conduct or even of domestic and family trial and concern. The friend of their youth remained the counsellor of their lives, unpaid, except by that filial gratitude and love, which prompted many tears at his death.

While here engaged in the study of the law, he became much interested in a system of mnemonics, or artificial memory. I have not been able to learn whether the system originated with him or whether he adopted it from some other source, nor have I been able to ascertain precisely what it was. He prepared a lecture upon the subject, with a series of illustrative diagrams, and delivered it in several places in the Commonwealth, in Rhode Island and Connecticut. I have heard his warm personal friend, the estimable man and upright magistrate, Chief Justice Mellen, late of the court of Common Pleas, say that he remembered with interest its delivery at Providence, while he was an undergraduate of Brown University. The only account I can find of it is from that cousin to whom I am so greatly indebted. He says: "The floor and ceiling and four sides of a room, were supposed to have each nine compartments with some familiar object in each. The student made himself familiar with these, and then associated with them, in their order, the things to be remembered." But whatever the principle, or whatever the detail, no doubt Mr. Huntington soon came to the practical result, to which others before and since have arrived, that each man must cultivate, in his own mode and by his own reflection, such aids to the memory, as he finds adapted to himself.

At the March Term of the Court of Common Pleas, 1824, he was admitted as an attorney of that court; two years later, according to the law then existing, he was admitted an attorney of the Supreme Judicial Court, and after two years' practice as attorney, was admitted as counsellor in the Supreme Judicial Court, the highest grade of the profession.

It is not easy to define with entire accuracy his position as a lawyer. It is easy to say that he took a prominent place at the

bar, which he maintained with honor so long as he remained in practice. It is easy to say, that he had the confidence of his clients and of the public and the respect of his associates; but to point out wherein he differed, who differed largely from his compeers, is not easy. Lord Bacon says:—"Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament, is in discourse; and for ability is in the judgment and disposition of business. * * To spend too much time in studies is sloth; to use them too much for ornament is affectation; to make judgment wholly by their rules is the humor of a scholar." More, formerly, than now in the early education of youth was there the just admixture of delight, ornament and ability. The mind was so cultivated that it found delight in literary pursuits, and discourse was made attractive and ability to treat affairs promoted. When Mr. Huntington entered upon life, the necessities of his position gave predominance to the last of these qualities of study, the ability to deal with affairs. His life became eminently a practical one, and though he never absolutely renounced the humanities, he gave but inconsiderable and unimportant attention to them. The natural and indeed necessary result of this was accomplishment and not display in his professional career. With no design to become a writer or expositor of the law, his studies did not range through the entire field of jurisprudence; but determined to perform well the duties of his profession, he limited his labors to the exigencies of immediate duty. In this he was constant and steadfast. This course of study made him what he was. If there was one mental trait, more strikingly manifest than any other to the minds of all who were brought into contact with him, it would probably be characterized by the majority as strong,

sterling, common sense. This, however, would very imperfectly describe it; for we understand by a vigorous common sense the mere natural working of a sound mind; a sort of intuition which results from original mental organization. It is not that, that I mean. What we thus characterize, when we apply it to Mr. Huntington, is the result of severe training and discipline. It is more properly wisdom applied to conduct. The secret springs of action in one mind are not intuitively known to another. To discover them and to turn them to useful account demands more profound thought and more incessant study than to master the details of history or science. The mysteries of mind are more subtle than those of physics and much more readily elude pursuit and investigation; and he that becomes master of the human mind and human passions has achieved a greater triumph than he who has discovered a planet. "He understands human nature," can properly be said only of him who has been a long, severe and profound student; although when such power is attained, like the most marvellous discoveries in science or art, it seems so simple that we are inclined to deem it intuitive. What we call gravitation, and what we call force, will explain nearly every phenomenon of the physical world; but it was the subtle and more mysterious workings of the mind, the more difficult and multifarious rules of human conduct that claimed the study of Mr. Huntington; and although we may call the result by the humble and unpretentious name of common sense, it is indeed one of the highest achievements of study. The great poet of nature wrote songs and sonnets, which would have given high place to another; but how insignificant they are in comparison with his magnificent exhibitions of human action!

The position of Mr. Huntington, as prosecuting officer, while still a young man, having been appointed to that place first in

1830, required the study of the mind in other than what may be called its normal condition. He was called to deal with men who violated law and duty; with those who transgressed in the slightest degree the rules of municipal law, and those who committed the highest and most revolting crimes; and the conduct of men under such circumstances he was called to investigate and to study; and though it opened a peculiar and ample field, he entered upon it and reaped an abundant harvest. To this was added an accurate and critical knowledge of the criminal law, a reasonable proficiency in the principles of the common law, a familiarity with general jurisprudence and an average degree of culture in literature and science. He thus became in the practice of his profession a strong man.

The character, however, would be incomplete without the addition of the high moral qualities, which distinguished him through his whole career, and an incorruptible integrity, which crowned and illustrated every other quality. While he held the office, first of County and afterwards of District Attorney, there were no separate terms of the Court for the transaction of criminal business; he was, therefore, although retained in a large proportion of civil controversies, to a considerable extent, prevented from attending in Court to that branch of professional business. He was twice elected to the House of Representatives of this Commonwealth, but was never a member of any other legislative body.

He remained unmarried until the year 1842. In August of that year, he was married, in Boston, to Mrs. Caroline Louisa Tucker, widow of Mr. Charles Tucker of that city. Mrs. Tucker had then one surviving child, Richard D., a lad of some nine or ten years of age, now a partner in the long established and well known house of Peele, Hubbell & Co., at Manila. Though her idiosyncrasies were different from his, and though their early

associations and educational influences had been respectively so unlike yet the constant and constantly increasing mutual confidence, respect and love, which made his married life one of comfort and happiness through many years — and to its close — fully attested the fitness of the union. His house was an abode of generous hospitality and of rare domestic happiness.

By this marriage there were born to them three children, William Deblois, Louisa Sarah, and Arthur Lord, of whom only the two younger survived him.

As prosecuting officer for the District comprising the large counties of Middlesex and Essex, the duties of Mr. Huntington were numerous and necessarily arduous. The year 1843 was one of much more than the usual responsibility and labor; and there occurred, during it, an important and memorable trial in which he was compelled to meet an array of ability, learning and legal skill, quite unexampled in the history of the Commonwealth. He met the demands of the occasion. The law was vindicated, and in the judgment, as well of the public as of the profession, in such manner as to reflect high credit upon him.

Strong as was his physical constitution, the labors of that year were too exhausting, and late in the fall he was prostrated with a tedious and dangerous illness, which, for many months, confined him to his house and prevented him from attending to any professional business till the next midsummer.

It was at this time, in Jan., 1844, while his body was suffering with a fearful disease, that there was superadded a calamity much more terrible to him.

> No might nor greatness in mortality
> Can censure 'scape; backwounding calumny
> The whitest virtue strikes.

His integrity was called in question, and charges were publicly made, that he was corrupt in office and had embezzled public funds. Nerves, strong as his, might well yield under the accumulated pressure of sickness and calumny. The charges, indeed, came from polluted sources; from those who, under the law and by force of the law, had been doomed to the pecuniary penalties, which he was charged with embezzling. They came, however, with dates and sums and with circumstance, so that the poison gangrened the minds of some honest and worthy men, and a call was made for Legislative investigation. On the 19th day of Jan., 1844, Mr. Washburn, of Lynn, introduced an order into the House of Representatives, which, after amendment, was adopted, directing the committee on the Judiciary "to inquire into any charge which may be preferred against Asahel Huntington, District Attorney of the Commonwealth, for malefeasance in the discharge of the duties of his office" and the committee were empowered to send for persons and papers. At the time, that most excellent and pure minded man, the late Honorable Leverett Saltonstall, our respected townsman, was at the head of the committee on the Judiciary. He knew Mr. Huntington well; and there is sufficient evidence that he was disinclined to enter upon such an investigation, at a time when his friend was unable even to converse on any subject of business, and that he was disposed to let a life of integrity and uprightness be its own vindicator. But Mr. Huntington, enfeebled and almost overwhelmed as he was, demanded an investigation, and on the 12th day of March, 1844, Mr. Saltonstall, in behalf of the committee, made a report recommending that "in conformity with the desire of the respondent a committee be appointed, to meet during the recess of the Legislature, to examine the charges which have

been preferred against the said Asahel Huntington and to make their report at the next session of the Legislature. And further, that said committee have authority to send for persons and papers." This report was accepted. The committee appointed were the late Hon. Joseph Bell, an eminent lawyer of Boston, the Hon. George S. Boutwell, the present Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, at that time a young, active and extreme partisan of the extreme democracy, and the late Hon. J. H. W. Page, a young and promising lawyer of New Bedford. The committee it will be perceived, had none of the qualities of a whitewashing committee. Nothing but integrity could pass that ordeal. This committee met in Salem on the 9th day of July, 1844, having previously given notice to Mr. Washburn who introduced the order, and to Mr. Huntington of the time and place of their meeting. On that day, the committee say "Mr. Huntington appeared and was ready to proceed. But no person appeared to sustain the charges." I have said the charges were made with the circumstance of dates, and sums, and persons, who had paid the money, which he was charged with embezzling; and neither the committee nor Mr. Huntington was willing to accept the absence of an accuser as sufficient vindication of the accused. Under the power to send for persons and papers they directed that Mr. Washburn and every person named in the accusation should be summoned, and that every document referred to should be brought before them for examination. Though Mr. Huntington was able to be present, he had not recovered his health. The elastic step and the buoyant spirit were not with him. Severe and protracted illness and its sympathetic influence upon a strong mind still debilitated and depressed him. But his life of honor and integrity had not been in vain. He had

friends that loved him, and they were friends that knew him. They knew also his accusers, and though these had paraded what they called facts and figures of condemnation, so as almost to forestall the public judgment, his friends did not falter or hesitate. They voluntarily and unsolicited, tendered to him their professional services before the committee, and entered upon the investigation with a zeal and confidence which no deceptive array of figures could diminish, and which fraud and falsehood could not shake. Foremost among them was the late Hon. Rufus Choate, the friend of his early manhood and of his whole life; who, in probably the last letter he ever indited, said affectionately "I am quite competent to pronounce for myself that I love and esteem you and * * * and brother Huntington quite as much as ever and for quite as much reason. Pray accept for yourself, and give them all my love, and be sure if I live to return, it will be with unabated affection for you all." To the cause of his friend he brought his love as well as his genius. Three others of the most conspicuous of these, whom Mr. Huntington followed sorrowfully to their graves, he would require me to name; Mr. Stickney of Lynn, an honorable lawyer of a different political party from Mr. Huntington; Mr. N. J. Lord of Salem, also of different politics, and Mr. J. H. Ward of Salem. The latter two were his more immediate and active advisers, the last of whom especially engaged in the cause with characteristic enthusiasm, and did not cease from his labors until the honor and integrity of his friend were clearly and completely vindicated. But while these, from their position, were naturally the more prominent among his vindicators, others of the bar, some of whom are now among the dead while others live to mourn his loss, felt no less assurance of the final result and

were in no degree less ready, should opportunity occur, to lend their aid to a successful issue.

Early in the next session in Jan. 1845, the committee made their report to the House of Representatives. I give its closing paragraph. "On the contrary, the evidence was entirely satisfactory to the committee, that Mr. Huntington had devoted himself with extraordinary zeal and untiring industry — even to the peril of his life, to the discharge of his official duties; and that he had thereby acquired, and has a just right to retain the wide spread and well founded confidence of his fellow citizens in the intelligence, integrity, fidelity and ability with which these duties have been discharged. The committee are, therefore, unanimously of opinion, that the charges of malpractice in office brought against Asahel Huntington, Esq., District Attorney of the Commonwealth for the Northern District, at the last session of the Legislature are wholly unsustained by the evidence referred to for their support, and that no further action be had thereon by this House." And on the 7th day of Jan. 1845, the record says this "report was read, unanimously accepted and ordered to be printed." Thus, effectually and forever was wiped away the only stain ever sought to be fixed upon his character. So thorough and complete was their vindication, that not even a suspicion rested upon any mind. Few, probably, of those who have since come upon the stage have ever heard of the attempt to defame him, while those who remember it, remember it only as a miserable failure. It would not now have been referred to, but that entire justice to his character required it, and because it illustrates, in a striking manner, the value of honesty, uprightness and integrity in character.

A few months later he returned to his accustomed work with

strength and spirits fully restored, and from that time to his death, which occurred a year ago this day, casting a gloom over our city and sending sorrow to many hearts, his uniformly robust health and ever cheerful temper were facts of universal observation and remark.

Thus, wholly exonerated, in 1845, he resigned the office of District Attorney which he had held from 1832, and resumed with much success the general practice of the law.

In 1847, Essex county was again constituted a distinct district, and yielding to the general public wish, he assumed again the duties of public prosecutor which he discharged for four years longer. In 1851, he was appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, Clerk of the Courts for the County of Essex. Subsequently, by a change in the constitution of the Commonwealth, the office was made elective, and by successive elections, each for the term of five years, he continued to hold the office during the remainder of his life. The duties of the office, though he was not clerical in his tastes or habits, were acceptably performed. Lord Bacon, speaking of clerks, who are first and last and only clerks, and who grow old in the service, says "an ancient clerk, skilful in precedents, wary in proceeding and understanding in the business of the Court, is an excellent finger of the court and doth many times point the way to the Judge himself." In a different and far higher sense, Mr. Huntington was a finger which many times pointed the way for the Judge himself; and it has often occurred to me, as I do not doubt it has to others holding a similar position, that the relative position of Judge and clerk might have been changed to the advantage of the public and for the better administration of the law.

In 1853, he was a member of the convention called to revise

the constitution of Massachusetts. In 1854, he was Mayor of the city, and this was the last political duty to which he was elected by his fellow citizens.

But these were not all the trusts which were committed to him. In 1844, he was chosen a Trustee of Dummer Academy, an institution endeared to him by the fact that his esteemed cousin, whom I have so often referred to, was for many years its accomplished head. The duties of this office he performed assiduously and efficiently so long as he lived. He was an officer, at various times, in several of our charitable institutions, a service most congenial to his nature; was Director and President of the Naumkeag Cotton Company; he was President, also, of this Institute which will never fail to honor his memory.

In all places to which he was thus called, he gave the benefit of his wisdom, his prudence and his efficient labors.

But, though his life was cheerful and happy in the highest degree, it was not all unshadowed. I remember, and memory will be dethroned when I forget that three years ago, our friend and I were engaged, each in our respective official duties at Newburyport, and returned together on the evening of Monday, May 11, with the expectation of resuming our places on the following morning. There was the same buoyancy of spirits, the same warm words from the heart, the same flow of genial and sympathetic kindness, that were his uniform characteristics and which made his society so charming. As I sat at breakfast the next morning, a note, in his familiar handwriting, was brought to me, the opening words of which were, "God has taken my first born." My own emotion, in some faint degree, indicated the severity of the calamity which well nigh overwhelmed him. I have since learned that when he parted with me on that pre-

vious evening, instead of going directly to his home, he made one of his frequent and ever welcome calls upon his beloved pastor; and there, in an unusual and pathetic manner, poured out his heart, his hopes, his anxieties, his confidence in relation to his first born son; lingering beyond his custom, and seemingly reluctant to leave the theme. His whole existence seemed garnered in the life of that young man. He went to his home to find the seal unbroken of a letter, which announced that this child of his love, of his hopes, of his heart, had, several months before, in a distant land, gone peacefully to his final rest.

He was a young gentleman of extraordinary promise, possessing an exceedingly amiable disposition, and had developed a more than usual capacity for business. He had not only endeared himself to a large circle of friends and associates here, but had secured the warm affection of many, with whom he came in contact in his far distant home. In contemplation of a son, so suddenly cut down in the full vigor and bright promise of opening manhood, well might the strong heart of the father quail, and the firm step, for a time, falter. The unwonted grief, which, at first, greatly saddened and subdued him, soon settled into a calm and submissive sorrow, that threw its attempering and hallowed influence over the rest of his life. His silent, tender farewell to this child of his affections might be well expressed in the words of the beautiful apostrophe.

> "Go, gentle spirit, to thy destined rest,
> While I, reversed our nature's kindlier doom,
> Pour forth a father's sorrow on thy tomb."

In the early manhood of Mr. Huntington, at just about the time he was appointed a public prosecutor, began what has been known as the temperance reformation. This commenced by a

pledge to abstain from the use of distilled liquors and was afterwards extended to abstinence from all intoxicating drink. To this cause, he was, from first to last, the consistent, unwavering and judicious friend. To it, he devoted the strength of his youth, the energy of his manhood, and the counsels of his mature age. If he had a specialty in life, it was devotion to temperance. If he had an ambition for distinction among his contemporaries, it was as the uncompromising friend of temperance. If there was one field above all others in which he delighted to labor, it was that which the cause of temperance opened to him. In 1861, when he was requested by his classmate, Edwards, to give some of the incidents of his life for the purpose of a class memorial, he said in a postscript to his letter of reply, "If I have had any special mission, or rendered any special service in my day and generation, it is as a temperance reformer, and in that I flatter myself I have made my mark. My labors have been felt in the general cause in this Commonwealth and in its legislation. Under the lead of one of your name and blood, the late Dr. Justin Edwards of Andover, the great temperance reformer of the United States, who should always be placed at its head, I enlisted in this work of benevolence and goodwill more than three and thirty years ago, and have been in it from that day to this, in season and out of season, by pen, speech and example. And if, in all these years, I have not done something, I must have been a very poor worker. I have lived to witness an entire revolution in the public sentiment of the State and people, and to see our principles established in the high places of power and influence. Our principles and creed have become energetic among the vital forces of society and are installed in the legislation of the State. In

all this great work I have had some share, and as far as public service is concerned, I consider it the great felicity of my life." During his various terms of service as prosecuting attorney, he labored with great zeal in the prosecution of parties charged with the violation of laws respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors. In the performance of this duty, I do not think he was fully understood. The fact that he was an ardent and zealous advocate of temperance was put in conjunction with the fact that he was a no less ardent and zealous prosecutor of persons charged with illegally selling intoxicating liquors, and they were deemed cause and effect. This, it seems to me, is a superficial view of his conduct. His zeal in both cases sprang from a deeper source. There was, underlying his whole character, the profoundest conviction that the morality, good order and advancement of society, depended upon the prevalence of temperance; there was also the no less profound conviction that society itself and the government, upon which it is based, will be subverted if law may be violated with impunity. His energy in the prosecution of such offences arose not so much from the fact, that such persons illegally sold liquors, as from the fact, that those, thus charged, constituted a large and influential class of open and arrogant violators of law; and this energy was intensified when he saw these persons, so open and arrogant in society, becoming mean and cowardly before the judicial tribunals, and resorting to every sort of sham and disguise when called to answer for their conduct. No wonder that he took delight in rending those disguises, in exposing those shams and in vindicating the law. It would, however, be unjust to him and to his memory, to give such prominence to his energy in securing the conviction of such offenders as to warrant the inference that he was less ener-

getic in the prosecution of other offences. There sometimes may have appeared to be more zeal in this class of prosecutions, but it arose not from the prosecution, but from the nature of the defences. These prosecutions were quite tame and unexciting, when, as in other cases, the issue was simply "Guilty" or "Not Guilty." It was only when some device, ingenious or absurd, was resorted to, that his zeal was kindled or his energy aroused. His true fame and excellence as a public prosecutor, had a wholly different foundation. Acting upon that other conviction to which I have referred, that the whole fabric of society rested upon the supremacy of the law, his great ability and all his powers were brought into action to this end. He kept constantly in mind the two great objects of the criminal law — the protection of society and the reformation of the offender. He accepted as the true definition of these objects, that which was given in the most remarkable trial in the annals of this county, by the great constitutional lawyer who conducted that prosecution, "The law is made, if we would speak with entire accuracy, to protect the innocent by punishing the guilty." The vindication of the law was the only object of his effort, the only joy in his triumph. The result of this course of administration has already been anticipated in the report of that Legislative Committee, from which I have quoted — the wide spread and well founded confidence of his fellow citizens in the intelligence, integrity, fidelity and ability with which those duties were discharged.

In estimating the character of Mr. Huntington, his religious views cannot otherwise than contribute an important element. Although it is impossible that a mind like his could be fettered by the words of any creed, his views were substantially in accordance with those, with whom he was accustomed to worship —

the orthodox congregationalists. They were tolerant and catholic. He was opposed as well to the bigotry of exclusiveness, as to the bigotry of liberalism. His religion was a religion of thought and action rather than speech. He never proclaimed that he was a lighted candle, but those who approached him saw the light, which could not be hid. In reference to the fundamental principle of Christianity, he believed that Science was silent,—that if it spoke at all, it was only in gloomy and despondent words; that Philosophy could offer nothing but a "pleasing hope,"—a "fond desire,"—a "longing after,"—and that by Revelation, and by revelation alone, the truth of the immortality of the soul was, with certainty, promulgated; and to deny an authentic and infallible revelation was, with him, to uproot all confidence that the condition of man differed from that of the beasts which perish. He was not of those who rejected what was old in belief, because it was old; nor was the consentaneous judgment of all minds for thousands of years rejected by him because it had been so long concurred in.

There is a class quite numerous now, and perhaps temporarily increasing in number, endowed above all others with inquiring and investigating minds. They receive nothing upon trust. Old truths are merely old superstitions until tested by the touchstone of their unerring wisdom. They must put their finger into the print of the nails, and thrust their hand into the side of every truth before it can have their sanction; and when truth has stood this test, they are prepared to inquire whether the body of truth is really a substantial body or only a certain manifestation which appears to be a body; for of such delicate composition are their minds that they can contain nothing as true, which is inconsistent with their view of what truth

ought to be. It would be difficult to tolerate this new school were it not for that general and satisfactory compensation which nature provides in such cases. While they will believe nothing which has been generally believed for ages, there is nothing, of recent suggestion, which they will not believe. They will hazard their lives upon the truth of every theory, every hypothesis, and even every speculation of each one of those learned professors, who has established, each for himself, a positive succession of prehistoric ages fraught with detailed events; nor does it dampen the ardor of their belief, that of the theories of a hundred of these learned men, each man's individual theory is rejected as absurd by the other ninety-nine. They go for progress. To believe what has been believed a thousand years, is not progress.

It is mere incredulity and a bigoted adherence to old notions, which refuses to believe that man by natural or sexual selection or in some other equally philosophical mode has been evolved from some ape-like progenitor, or anthropomorphous monkey, and that in "Curiosity" "Imitation" "Attention" "Memory" "Imagination" and "Reason" the difference between man and any other animal is only in degree — not in kind. With this class of advancing men, Mr. Huntington had no sympathy. What had commended itself to the common belief for a long time was more likely, in his opinion, to be true, than what had never been received. He was well aware that these old truths had undergone investigation and scrutiny many times; that they had been opposed and denied; crushed even to the earth, only to rise again with renewed and increased power; that many of the new discoveries had been time and again discovered, and time and again exploded; that under different names and in different types the

new theories and new philosophies had been, over and over again, originated and discarded; and it was such and such only of what modern theorists and speculators call old superstitions, as, after study and investigation, commend themselves to belief, that commanded his sanction.

It would be doing him great injustice, should I omit to say that the authenticity and divine origin of the sacred scriptures was the one foundation, on which he planted himself. His interpretation of them—the particular theological truths which he derived from them, I shall not in this place attempt to state: but belief in their essentially divine character was a part of his being, and beautified and illustrated his life.

There was another trait of Mr. Huntington's character so conspicuous and so constant, that no one would recognize the portraiture which did not present it. It may, perhaps, be designated by the word benevolence, if understood in that enlarged signification of assisting others in every commendable enterprise. Whether the call came from country, from state, from city, from parish, from institution or from individual, there was the same ready response. Whether made upon his mind, his hand or his purse, the answer was never uncertain. An unrecompensed journey of a thousand miles for a poor widow was given with the same cheerfulness as his deposit in the charity box. His views were enlarged and liberal. He was conscious that

> There is some soul of goodness in things evil
> Would men observingly distil it out.

He did not confine his good offices to kindred or to sect, to those about him or personally known to him. I have known men liberal and generous; men who gave largely, impulsively and even passionately; but I have never known a man, who so uni-

formly and so cheerfully contributed according to his means to every worthy object; and his fondness for accumulation, though great, undoubtedly, was thus graced and dignified by his extraordinary dedication of its results to charity and benevolence. His giving was not ostentatious nor lavish, but discriminate and prudent. His public contributions are known — his private aid, by counsel, by loan, by gift will never be fully revealed.

The inquiry is natural, whether there are any peculiar circumstances or causes, that evidently contributed to form the character and to shape the life, which I have so imperfectly depicted. There is, in every person, an individuality of some sort. This is not the occasion to inquire whether such individuality is inherent, or whether it is the result of education. In relation to Mr. Huntington there were, at least, two facts which had a marked influence on his character, and which modified to some extent his whole life. His father was a clergyman — his mother a widow from his early boyhood.

The memory — the consciousness of these facts, were, with him, an ever-present, all-pervading influence, manifest in many of his tastes and habits, and to which thousands of his kindly charities may be traced. To the fact just mentioned may be ascribed in large measure, I think, the peculiar interest he always felt in members of the clerical profession and in all matters and occasions of an ecclesiastical nature. Occasionally, he presided, by special invitation, over assemblies which might almost be called ministerial, and uniformly discharged the duty with great felicity.

"And she was a widow." In this was a cause still more potent. There is, probably, no appeal to the better nature of a boy so strong, as that which is made by having a mother wid-

owed and destitute. His filial love and duty, thus specially excited, became an unfailing stimulus to exertion and kept him firmly in the right path. Who has not observed that the sons of poor widows very often, nay, more frequently than those in any other special condition of life — become eminent for their virtues and success. Mr. Huntington's devotion to the beloved and venerated parent, who survived his father nearly forty years was conspicuously exemplary. Several years after her death, at the age of eighty-five, he thus referred to her in a letter to his classmate Edwards "She has been the delight and charm of my life, and I cherish her memory in all honor and with the highest filial love."

There were incidents of interest in the life of Mr. Huntington, to which I might refer. His life, however, did not consist of here and there a brilliant exhibition; an occasional exploit, which startled or enchanted an admiring public; there was no extraordinary and sporadic effort now and then eclipsing the general tenor of his life. There was rather a daily beauty, which everywhere and at all times gave a charm to his life, developing a well formed and symmetrical character — of active duty, kindly and faithfully done — of constant sympathy, flowing in continuous benevolence — and unfailing integrity, seeking to be right rather than to be brilliant, dealing justly and truly in all conditions of life.

To some extent, an impression has been made that there was a certain degree of indolence in his mental constitution. In that graceful tribute of his esteemed pastor, so happy in its delineation of his character — a tribute, which, while it does honor to its subject, reflects honor upon its author — it is said, "that he was constitutionally, a man of more than usual inertia." In the

sense in which the eloquent preacher used the phrase, it is undoubtedly true, for it was only when roused by some exigency or excited by some call of duty that "his prodigious energy" was manifested. In its normal condition — in the ordinary intercourse of life — there was a quiet repose of mind — an indisposition to obtrude his own reflections upon others — an apparent inattention which the phrase may properly characterize. In no other sense, however, is it true. He was a thinking man. His mind was constantly active. Indeed, it could not be otherwise; for it was healthily constituted — constantly nurtured — and well sustained by a vigorous and healthful physical frame. He did not display the crude, undigested and unarranged congeries of thoughts which first took possession of his mind. He spoke only matured opinions. It was the incessant activity of his intellect — its presentation to itself of every question in so many phases and aspects which gave the idea of what is sometimes called inertia — more properly, perhaps, abstraction — but which is, in reality, the highest condition of mental activity.

The inquiry is not unnatural, why Mr. Huntington, commended by such excellences of character, and fitted to adorn any place, was not elevated to more conspicuous public position. The answer, however, is easy, and for him an honorable one. So far as judicial position is concerned, he had fixed an ideal standard of qualification, which it were no disparagement to him, nor to any man, to fail to reach. I am not without reason to suppose that his absence from judicial office is to be attributed rather to his own disposition than to that of the appointing power, and that he felt constrained to his determination by the conscientious fear that more is required of a judge, than the lot of humanity will admit. The inquiry, however, rather is, why

he was not elevated to more important political position. The present generation can scarcely appreciate the condition of the public mind, as it was, when he entered upon professional life. Suffrage was comparatively limited, and was exercised principally by the more intelligent and the wiser. The surest evidence of unfitness for any office was the desire to fill that office. Politics was not a trade, and there were few, if any, politicians. Officers were selected under the guidance of an enlightened public judgment. It is a high tribute to the early worth and future promise of our friend, that comparatively a stranger, and before he was thirty years of age, he was chosen to represent the most important town in the county in the public counsels. Before he had been ten years at the bar, at a time when fitness was the only qualification, he was appointed by the executive to an important position, one previously held by a gentleman of high standing, who was by many years his senior, and who had before occupied a high judicial office. With the change, of the times, he did not change. If that change were progress he did not advance with the progressive; if it were deterioration, he did not deteriorate.

> "O, that estates, degrees and offices
> Were not derived corruptly; and that clear honor
> Were purchased by the merit of the wearer!
> How many then should cover, that stand bare,
> How many be commanded, that command."

In reply to a letter already referred to, in which the incidents of his life were asked of him, for the purpose of a College class memoir, he said, "I have had the honor to hold various offices of trust, which have sought *me*. I never sought them, or any of them, from first to last." There was, however, one

occasion, and I can recall but one, after he had arrived at the maturity of his manhood, when the public sentiment demanded that fitness should be the only qualification, and to this end, with a single exception not to be more particularly noticed, that public sentiment selected those who most eminently possessed the requisite qualifications, and were to the fullest extent entitled to the public confidence. I refer to the choice of delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1853 — and Mr. Huntington was of course, and without dissent, one of them. Although the part he took in that assembly was not a very conspicuous one, it was one of honorable and controlling influence, not so much in what was done, for he was in a minority, as in what was prevented. The ultimate judgment of the people, in rejecting every proposition of the convention, was in accordance with his counsels and his efforts. If the incumbency of high official position is necessary to establish a title to grateful remembrance — our friend did not achieve it.

Est autem gloria, laus rectè factorum, magnorumque in rempublicam meritorum, quae cum optimi cujusque, tam etiam multitudinis testimonio comprobatur — and our friend achieved it.

There is, however, another view of the character of Mr. Huntington, upon which, if the proprieties of the occasion would allow, it would be delightful to linger — that of the warm-hearted, generous, constant personal friend. It was in this relation, beyond all others, that he commended himself most warmly, and in which his true worth was strikingly conspicuous. Tolerant of faults, sympathetic in vicissitudes, rejoicing in success, supporting in trial, solacing in affliction, seeking another's rather than his own advancement, his ever ready and responsive heart grew warmer, and entwined itself more and more closely about his friends ev-

ery year of his life. Washington Irving, in the preface to one of the later editions of the sketch book, alluding to Sir Walter Scott, and in gratitude for the interest which that distinguished man had manifested in him, before he himself had acquired his own worldwide celebrity, used a phrase, which seems to me better than any other to characterize our friend — that "golden hearted man." How descriptive and how just! Those who were admitted to his confidence — those who sustained the relation of personal friend — those who have been accustomed to his cordial and sympathetic greeting — and not those alone—will accept it — and amid all the recollections, which cluster about his name and his memory, no word will more truly and graphically define the aggregated qualities, which endear him to us than this one phrase — THAT GOLDEN HEARTED MAN.

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